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John Mark Fehnel  
(Signature of Traveler)

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)**  
**Educational Seminar in Israel**  
**U.S. Senior Congressional Staff**  
**May 25-June 2, 2019**

**Final Itinerary**

**Saturday, May 25, 2019**

3:20 PM Depart Union Station (Amtrak)

6:21 PM Arrive Newark

10:45 PM Depart Newark

**Sunday, May 26, 2019**

4:20 PM Arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport  
Transfer to Jerusalem

6:30 PM Check-in to the Orient Hotel

7:15 PM Depart for dinner

7:30-8:00 PM *Setting the Stage*  
Orientation with Becky Strapp, Director of Educational Initiatives  
- at Touro

8:00-10:00 PM *State of the Nation*  
Dinner with David Horowitz  
Founding Editor, *The Times of Israel*  
- at Touro

**State of the Nation**

David Horovitz is the founding editor of *Times of Israel*, the leading current affairs website in Israel. Mr. Horovitz will provide staff with a synthesis of domestic political trends, current international affairs and the general state of mind of the Israeli voters.

10:00-10:30 PM *Shalom Jerusalem*  
Introduction to the history of the city  
Brief walking survey

**Shalom Jerusalem**

Throughout its 4,000-year history, the city of Jerusalem has changed hands many times. As home to the world's three great monotheistic religions — Judaism, Christianity and Islam — Jerusalem is probably the most disputed city in history. Today, the status of Jerusalem remains

the most contentious issue in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jerusalem has been at the heart of all Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. To understand the current political issues, it is critical to understand Jerusalem's history and the role it has played in shaping the Middle East. This seminar will include site visits to various locations in and around Jerusalem to give participants a first-hand look at the historic significance of the city, as well as its geographic layout.

10:30 PM Overnight at the Orient Hotel

### **Monday, May 27, 2019**

7:30 AM Breakfast is served  
-at the hotel

7:45-8:45 AM *Israel's Political Map*  
Breakfast with Professor Reuven Hazan  
Professor of Political Science, Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
- at the hotel

### **Israel's Political Map**

It is critical for trip participants to have an understanding of the parliamentary system in Israel. Professor Hazan explains how the parliamentary party system works, how coalitions rise and fall, and how Israeli politics differ from American politics. Since the group will be visiting with government officials throughout the week, we believe it's important to provide this overview early in the seminar.

9:00 AM Depart for Strategic Survey of Jerusalem

9:15 AM-12:15 PM *Strategic Survey of Jerusalem – Part I:*  
The Historic and Holy Basin and City of David  
Guided Survey of the Old City of Jerusalem with Ze'ev Orenstein

### **The Historic and Holy Basin and City of David**

The Old City of Jerusalem is home to the holiest shrines of the three monotheistic religions, including the Temple Mount, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. During the Camp David II talks, the Palestinians and Israelis differed on the Jerusalem question, namely the Old City, the status of Arab neighborhoods just outside the Old City, and religious sites such as the Temple Mount.

The Holy Basin is the historic location of Jerusalem and refers to the land surrounding the Old City, including the Mount of Olives, which is believed to be the departure point for Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem and where Jews have been burying their dead for 2,500 years. The Holy Basin also includes the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, and the Temple Mount (Haram al-Sharif), sacred ground for Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Control over these sensitive areas remains among the largest disputes in the Middle East.

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This dinner will just be the participants, in order to allow the group to process what they've experienced thus far.

10:30 PM                      Overnight at the Orient Hotel

**Tuesday, May 28, 2019**

7:45 AM	Breakfast is served - at the hotel
8:00-9:00 AM	<i>U.S.-Israel Relations</i> Breakfast with Aryeh Lightstone

## U.S.-Israel Relations

During each seminar, we invite Ambassador David Friedman or a member of his staff to address the group and share the Embassy's perspective on U.S.-Israel relations and the state of affairs in Israel.

9:15 AM	Depart for Yad Vashem
9:45-11:45 AM	<i>Remembering the Victims of the Holocaust</i> Visit to Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum

## Yad Vashem

One cannot understand Israel's position on Iran's nuclear program without understanding the trauma of the Holocaust. Israelis view threats to its destruction in light of the events of the 1930s and 1940s, when the German government's threats to exterminate the Jewish people were not taken seriously by the international community. This museum provides an important reference point as to how Israelis interpret the threat of an Iranian nuclear program and Iranian leaders committed to Israel's destruction.

Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, was established in 1953 by an act of the Israeli Knesset. Since its inception, Yad Vashem has been entrusted with documenting the history of the Jewish people during the Holocaust period, preserving the memory and story of each of the six million victims, and imparting the legacy of the Holocaust for generations to come through its archives, library, school, museums and recognition of the Righteous Among the Nations. Located on Har Hazikaron (the Mount of Remembrance) in



7:45-9:45 PM      *Start-Up Nation*  
 Dinner with

- Dovie Meisel, United Hatzalah
- Cathy Sebag, Head of Products, Mobile ODT
- Dr. Yonatan Wexler, OrCam

Moderated by Inbal Arieli, Tech Entrepreneur  
 - at Deca

### **Start-Up Nation**

Israel is a giant when it comes to innovation: a global leader in R&D spending and Venture Capital investment, and home to global R&D centers for the likes of Google, Apple and IBM. This evening's Start-Up Nation dinner will include a discussion with entrepreneurs representing Israeli innovation and ingenuity that has had enormous impact both in Israel and abroad.

10:00 PM              Overnight at the Carlton Tel Aviv Hotel

### **Wednesday, May 29, 2019**

7:00 AM              Breakfast on your own

7:45 AM              Depart

8:15-9:45 AM      *Save a Child's Heart*  
 Meet with Dr. Houry and Visit the Recovery Home  
 -Wolfson Hospital

### **Save a Child's Heart**

Save a Child's Heart (SACH) is an Israeli- based international, non-profit organization. SACH is committed to saving lives by improving the quality of cardiac care for children from developing countries and creating centers of medical competence in these countries. SACH Israel has saved the lives of over 3,700 children from 50 countries where adequate medical care is simply unavailable. Approximately 50% of these children are from the Palestinian Authority, Jordan, Iraq and Morocco (countries with whom Israel has either no diplomatic relations or who are in a state of war with Israel). More than 30% are from Africa, and the remainder are from Asia, Eastern Europe and the Americas. These children are treated at the Wolfson Medical Center and housed at the Legacy Heritage Children's Home of Save a Child's Heart, both located in Holon.

9:45 AM              Depart

10:45 AM-12:45 PM *Israel's Southern Front*

- Visit Netiv Ha'asara and meet with local residents
- Overlook into Gaza and Visit to Peace Wall

-at Netiv Ha'asara

### **Israel's Southern Front**

Since 2001, Israeli communities bordering the Gaza Strip have been living under the threat of rocket fire. Since the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005 and the Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip in 2007, the volume, range and accuracy of the rockets has only increased. The summer of 2014 witnessed Operation Protective Edge, which returned the issue of rocket fire from Gaza to international headlines. At Kibbutz Nir Am, participants will be able to see the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip, to better comprehend the landscape of the region, as well as the unique challenges faced by this area. The visit to Kibbutz Kfar Azza and meeting with a local resident will be an opportunity to better understand the reality of living just kilometers from Israel's border with Gaza, to learn how almost 15 years of rocket fire has shaped those living in the communities most affected, to discuss the advent of Hamas "terror tunnels" into Israel's border towns and how communities have sought to cope with the threat on their doorstep, both physically and psychologically.

12:45 PM	Depart <i>Boxed Lunches en Route</i>
1:00-1:30 PM	<i>Israel's Missile Defense Systems</i> Visit to Iron Dome Battery

### **The Iron Dome**

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) typically honors our request to visit an Iron Dome battery, the joint U.S.-Israel funded rocket defense program. The military typically approves any visit to an Iron Dome location the week before the trip due to the constantly shifting security situation on the ground. A visit to an Iron Dome battery includes meeting with the soldiers and the commanding officer. For security reasons, we do not receive the names of the IDF soldiers meeting with the group.

1:30 PM	Depart
3:00-4:00 PM	<i>Israel-U.S. Strategic Partnership</i> Briefing with Ari Sacher Rocket Scientist, Rafael -at the Hotel

### **Israel's Missile Defense Systems**

Ari Sacher is a Rocket Scientist and has worked in the design and development of missiles for over twenty years. He has briefed hundreds of US Congressmen on Israeli Missile Defense and speaks regularly for the Israeli Foreign Ministry. Ari is highly regarded speaker, enabling even the layman to understand the "rocket science". During this session, he will explain the U.S.-Israel strategic cooperation that has led to Israel's development of multi-tiered missile defense system.

4:15-5:00 PM	360 Bird's Eye View of Israel Briefing at the Azrieli Center Helipad
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### **Azrieli Center Rooftop**

From the rooftop of the Azrieli center, participants will be standing at the highest observatory in the Middle East. The panoramic view stretches from Ashkelon in the south to Hadera in the north. On a clear day one see almost 70 percent of the country, as far as Jerusalem to the East. The importance of this visit is to provide participants a geostrategic viewpoint from which to understand the narrow waistline of Israel, which at its narrowest spans 9 miles from the Mediterranean to the West Bank. Additionally, the area visible from this vantage point – referred to as the Gedera-Hadera corridor – comprises a small rectangle of land that can be covered lengthwise in under an hour. This section of Israel includes over 50% of Israel's population, economic infrastructure, as well as its only International Airport.

5:00 PM Depart for hotel

7:50 PM Depart for dinner

8:00-9:45 PM *Israelis from Different Walks of Life*  
Dr. Yasmeeen Abu Fraiha  
Co-Founder and Executive Director, Genesis

- Chen Arieli, Chairperson, Aguda-National LGBT Task Force
- Rivka Ravitz, Chief of Staff to the President of Israel
- Racheli Yaso  
Development Officer and Visitor Relations Director, Yemin Orde

- at Lumina

10:00 PM Overnight at the Carlton Tel Aviv Hotel

### **Thursday, May 30, 2019**

8:00 AM Breakfast is served  
- at the hotel

8:15-9:15 AM *Regional Strategic Threats*  
Meeting with Assaf Orion  
Senior Research Fellow,  
The Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)  
- at the hotel

### **Regional Strategic Threats**

As the delegation leaves the Gaza border, and heads north to the borders with Lebanon and Syria, it is critical to understand the threats faced by Israel from these three areas, all Iranian proxies. The briefing will cover the unique situation at each border, as well as the malign activity from Iran contributing to unrest in the region.

9:30 AM Depart

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holds an MA in Middle East Studies from Ben Gurion University and is a resident of the northern Galilee region. She will brief the group on the current threats facing Israel by Iranian backed Hizballah in Lebanon.

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| 5:30 PM       | Depart  |
| 6:30 PM       | Check-in to Europa Hotel                            |
| 7:45 PM       | Depart for dinner                                   |
| 8:00-10:00 PM | <i>Reflections on the Week</i><br>- Dinner at Decks |

### **Reflections on the Week**

We will use this dinner as an opportunity to discuss the speakers and topics we have been exposed to thus far. We have found giving our participants an opportunity to discuss the topics and perspectives presented to them assists them in their ability to more fully understand the complexities Israel faces.

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| 10:30 PM | Overnight at the Europa Hotel |
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### **Friday, May 31, 2019**

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| 8:00 AM       | Breakfast at the Hotel   |
| 8:30 AM       | Depart   |
| 9:00-11:00 AM | <i>Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee</i><br>Survey of historical and religious sites around the Sea of Galilee <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Mt. of Beatitudes – Sermon on the Mount</li><li>▪ St. Peter's Church</li><li>▪ Capernaum – Jesus' Village</li></ul> |

### **Christian Sites at the Sea of Galilee**

As part of the seminar's focus on the complex religious fabric of Israeli society, the group will be visiting several of the most sacred sites for Christians in the Holy Land. Included is a guided survey and discussion of some of the most important events in the life of Jesus by the Sea of Galilee. Just as strategic surveys in Jerusalem focused on Jewish, Muslim, and Christian history and claims to the land, the site visits to the Christian sites help provide context for the competing religious narratives for the land of Israel. For example, we will be visiting the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, the most studied and read speech of any religion in history. Our guide will also lead discussions through Capernaum and St. Peter's Church.

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| 11:00 AM | Depart for the Golan Heights |
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12:00-1:15 PM      *Israel's Northern Border Concerns: Syria*  
Strategic survey of Israel's border with Syria  
With Cpt. (Res.) Ilan Shulman  
- at Kibbutz Ein Zivan

**Israel's Northern Border Concerns: Syria**

Captain (Res.) Ilan Shulman, a disabled IDF veteran, divides his time guiding geopolitical tours on the Galilee and Golan Heights, lecturing to students, giving geo-political briefings for delegations through various Israeli foreign ministry programs, and fulfilling his IDF reserve duties in the Northern Command's intelligence unit. Shulman was raised in Kibbutz Merom Golan near Israel's border with Syria, where one of his favorite jobs was herding the kibbutz cattle. Shulman served in the IDF's paratrooper's unit, rising to the position of company commander. He holds a BA in Israel and Middle East Studies. During this session he will take participants to the border between Israel and Syria and provide an overview of the Syrian civil war.

1:30-2:30 PM      *Ethics in the IDF*  
Lunch with IDF Soldiers  
-at HaBokrim

**Ethics in the IDF**

Ruach Tzahal (Literally, 'Spirit of the IDF') represents the values of the Israel Defense Forces and stands as the foundation for the responsibilities of Israel's army. This overarching ethical code, and the guidelines and operation resulting from it, shape the mode of action applied by all IDF soldiers and units, both in peace and at war. During basic training, every IDF soldier studies and analyzes the code of ethics together with their commanders. It is customary for a framed copy of the code to be hung in every commander's office as a constant reminder of the IDF's values and guidelines. During lunch, participants will be joined by soldiers in the Northern Command, who will discuss the challenges of serving in a region overtaken by the Syrian civil war.

2:30-3:30 PM      Travel back to Jerusalem via the Jordan Valley  
En route briefing:  
*Jordan: Relations with Israel, and the Growing Refugee Crisis*

**Jordan: Relations with Israel, and the Growing Refugee Crisis**

The tour guide will spend approximately an hour during the drive through the Jordan Valley to explore several topics related to Israel's eastern neighbor: specifically, Israeli-Jordanian strategic cooperation, as well as the implications of the Syrian civil war on the Kingdom.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan became the second Arab country after Egypt to recognize Israel when it signed a comprehensive peace agreement that ended nearly five decades of warfare. Shepherded by United States President Bill Clinton, the accord signed on Oct. 6, 1994, marked the onset of a new era of economic, cultural, and political dialogue and cooperation between the two countries.

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7:15 PM Depart for dinner

## Reflections on the Sabbath in Jerusalem

The dinner will include a discussion on the importance of Jerusalem to the Jewish, Christian and Muslim populations; the potential for a final status agreement on Jerusalem (arguably the most sensitive final status issue); and the diplomatic challenges faced by Israel and the United States regarding Israeli urban development in the area.

**Saturday, June 1, 2019**

8:00-10:00 AM Depart  
En route briefing:  
*Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor*

On the drive from Jerusalem to Masada, the group will travel on the highway known as the “Jericho Road” is the strategic importance of the area east of Jerusalem. In 1948 and in 1967, the Jordanian army attacked Jerusalem from the east – the 1948 attack resulted in the city’s division that lasted until 1967. Since then Israel has established the City of Ma’ale Adumim east of Jerusalem, today home to some 40,000 residents. To the Palestinians, however, Ma’ale Adumim

is the largest settlement on the West Bank. When Israel attempted to expand Ma'ale Adumim's boundary, into an area known as "E-1", the U.S. State Department stepped in and asked that no construction take place there. The issue needs to be examined with those discussing the future of Jerusalem in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

9:30-10:30 AM      *History and Geopolitics of the Roman Empire*  
Guided survey of the National Archeological Park at Masada

### **Masada**

Masada, which was excavated in the 1960s, is considered one of the most important archeological sites in Israel. Masada was the site of the last stand of the Jews in Israel after the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Holy Temple in 70 A.D. A group of Jewish zealots fled to the Judean Desert and lived in the former mountaintop fortress of King Herod known as Masada for two years resisting the onslaught of the most powerful army in the world. Determined to break the resistance, the Romans finally scaled the mountain to capture and enslave the Jewish rebels. However, when they finally arrived, they found that all the men, women and children had killed themselves as a last act of defiance. They refused to give in to the Romans and become their slaves.

The ancient story of Masada has important contemporary relevance for the modern State of Israel. "Masada shall never fall again" has become the watchword of the country which has faced existential threats since its founding in 1948. Israel's elite military units, for example, are sworn in on top of Masada in a symbolic act of defiance against Israel's contemporary enemies. These soldiers along with the thousands of Israeli school children who visit Masada each year learn the lesson that Israel should never become so weak again that it would ever face national suicide as an option.

We will spend approximately two hours atop of Masada with a professional guide. The time at Masada with the guide is focused on three areas: 1. touring the ancient excavations; 2. learning the narrative of Jewish resistance to the Romans backed by the archeological and historical evidence; 3. discussing the importance of the Masada story to the contemporary Middle East and the threats in the region.

11:30 AM–12:30 PM *Exploration of the Dead Sea Region*  
- at Herods Hotel

### **Dead Sea Region**

During our drive to and from the Dead Sea area, as well as during our visit to the Dead Sea, our tour guide will discuss a variety of issues integral to understanding the region, the country, and relations with both the Palestinians and Jordanians.

It is important to note that the region is mostly desert. For decades, Israel has been challenging this arid area and developing its agricultural potential. While the Middle East is suffering from water shortages, Israel, through modern technology and water conservation policies, including the recycling of over 80 percent of water used for domestic purposes and transferring it to agriculture, has literally "made the desert bloom." Some of this technology is already being



